

# Strengthening primary health care in a decentralized health system: recent experiences from Kerala

## Programme

This webinar is organized by

Please register attendance here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlude-upzgvE9z9PoQMZYcP09FTLPvhk0F5> the SUPPORT-SYSTEMS research consortium

Time (Oslo)	Item	Presenter	
3 – 3.05PM	Welcome	<b>Unni Gopinathan</b> Senior Scientist Norwegian Institute of Public Health	
3.05 – 3.30PM	<b>Primary Health Centre Reengineering in a Decentralised Health System– Some Insights from the Kerala Experience</b>	<b>Ravi Prasad Varma</b> Additional Professor Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, India	
3.30 – 3.40	Comments	<b>Benjamin Tsofa</b> Principal Research Scientist & leader of the Health Policy and Systems Research Group KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme	
3.40 – 4PM	Questions and discussion		

## Strengthening primary health care in a decentralized health system: recent experiences from Kerala state in India

Please register attendance here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlude-upzgvE9z9PoQMZYcP09FTLPvhk0F5>

In this talk, **Dr. Ravi Prasad Varma** will

- Provide an overview of the context surrounding the decentralization of healthcare in Kerala
- Delve into Kerala's unique experience with decentralization, highlighting key implications for its health system
- Share valuable insights and key takeaways from recent efforts to re-engineer primary health centers within the state

**Dr. Benjamin Tsofa** will comment, drawing on perspectives from health sector decentralization in Kenya.

### About the speakers

**Dr. Varma** is currently Additional Professor in Epidemiology at the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies in Trivandrum, Kerala. He completed his MD in Community Medicine from Calicut University and started his career as a WHO Medical Consultant to the TB Control Programme in Bihar, India. His main areas of interest are public health perspectives on disability, rehabilitation and palliative and supportive care.

He led and co-authored several research articles in a recently published supplement on decentralization and health in Kerala, published in Public Health Action, which can be found here: <https://bitly.ws/VdtM>.

**Dr. Tsofa** is a Principal Research Scientist at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) in Kenya, where he leads the Health Policy and Systems Research Group and is the Head of the National Centre for the African Health Observatory Platform for Health Systems and Policies (AHOP). Dr. Tsofa's areas of interest include health sector decentralization, and healthcare planning, budgeting and resource allocation at the sub-national level.



**Dr. Ravi Prasad Varma**



**Dr. Benjamin Tsofa**